

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A status notification apparatus for notifying the status of ~~[[one]] a~~ second information processing apparatus, ~~included in the one in a first~~ information processing apparatus ~~[[for]] transmitting/receiving information to/from [[other]]~~ the second information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and having a display unit which can display the information, comprising:

- an inquiry device ~~[[for]] equipped in the first information processing apparatus and~~ making an inquiry about whether the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses have the~~ apparatus has a function of transmitting/receiving the information; and
- a notification device ~~[[for]] equipped in the first information processing apparatus and~~ starting the notification upon confirmation ~~by the inquiry~~ by the inquiry device that the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses have the~~ apparatus has the function.

2. (currently amended): A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the notification device stops the notification upon confirmation by the inquiry device that the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses have~~ apparatus has no ~~[[the]]~~ configuration to transmit/receive information after starting the notification.

3. (currently amended): A status notification apparatus for notifying the status of ~~[[one]] a~~ second information processing apparatus, ~~included in the one in a first~~ information processing apparatus ~~[[for]] transmitting/receiving information to/from [[other]]~~ the second information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and having a display unit which can display the information, comprising:

- a confirmation device for confirming whether the connection of a transmission path of the information is established between the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and the ~~[[one]] first~~ information processing apparatus; and

a notification device ~~[[for]]~~ equipped in the first information processing apparatus and starting the notification upon confirmation by the confirmation device that the connection is established.

4. (currently amended): A status notification apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the notification device stops the notification upon confirmation by the confirmation device that the connection is not established with the ~~[[other]]~~ second information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus after starting the notification.

5. (currently amended): A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the notification device switches ~~[[a]]~~ the display ~~device~~ unit in off state to a turned-on state when starting the notification.

6. (currently amended): A status notification apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the notification device switches ~~[[a]]~~ the display ~~device~~ unit in off state to a turned-on state when starting the notification.

7. (currently amended): A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~[[other]]~~ second information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and the ~~[[one]]~~ first information processing apparatus are connected to each other by a serial bus governed by IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) 1394 Standard.

8. (currently amended): A status notification apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the ~~[[other]]~~ second information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and the ~~[[one]]~~ first information processing apparatus are connected to each other by a serial bus governed by IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) 1394 Standard.

9. (currently amended): A status notification method for notifying the status of ~~[[one]] a~~ second information processing apparatus ~~[[for]] in a first information processing apparatus~~ transmitting/receiving information to/from ~~[[other]] the second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and having a display function which can display the information, comprising:

an inquiry process for making an inquiry about whether the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses have the~~ apparatus has a function of transmitting/receiving the information; and

a notification process for starting the notification upon confirmation by the inquiry that the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses have~~ apparatus has the function.

10. (currently amended): A status notification method for notifying the status of ~~[[one]] a~~ second information processing apparatus ~~in a first information processing apparatus~~ transmitting/receiving information to/from ~~[[other]] the second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and having a displaying function which can display the information, comprising:

a confirmation process for confirming whether the connection of a transmission path of the information is established between the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and the ~~[[one]] first~~ information processing apparatus; and

a notification process for starting the notification upon confirmation by the confirmation device that the connection is established.

11. (currently amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions, which executed by a computer included in a status notification apparatus for notifying the status of ~~[[one]] a second~~ information processing apparatus, ~~included in the one in a first~~ information processing apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ transmitting/receiving information to/from ~~[[other]] the second~~ information processing

~~apparatuses for notifying the status of the one information processing apparatus~~ apparatus and having a display unit which can display the information, the instructions cause the computer to function as:

- an inquiry device for making an inquiry about whether the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses have the~~ apparatus has a function of transmitting/receiving the information; and
- a notification device for starting the notification upon confirmation ~~by the inquiry~~ by the inquiry device that the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses have~~ apparatus has the function.

12. (currently amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions, which executed by a computer included in a status notification apparatus for notifying the status of ~~[[one]] a second~~ information processing apparatus, ~~included in the one in a first~~ information processing apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ transmitting/receiving information to/from ~~[[other]] the second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and having a display unit which can display the information, the instructions cause the computer to function as:

- a confirmation device for confirming whether the connection of a transmission path of the information is established between the ~~[[other]] second~~ information processing ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus and the ~~[[one]] first~~ information processing apparatus; and
- a notification device for starting the notification upon confirmation by the confirmation device that the connection is established.

13. (new): A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the notification device is separately provided as an indicator in the status notification apparatus, and a ready state can be known from the notification device irrespective of the on/off state of the display unit.

14. (new): A status notification apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the notification device is separately provided as an indicator in the status notification apparatus, and a ready state can be known from the notification device irrespective of the on/off state of the display unit.

15. (new): A status notification method according to claim 9, wherein the notification process generates an indication of a ready state irrespective of the on/off state of the display unit.

16. (new): A status notification method according to claim 10, wherein the notification process generates an indication of a ready state irrespective of the on/off state of the display unit.

17. (new): A computer data signal according to claim 11, wherein the notification device is separately provided as an indicator in the status notification apparatus, and a ready state can be known from the notification device irrespective of the on/off state of the display unit.

18. (new): A computer data signal according to claim 12, wherein the notification device is separately provided as an indicator in the status notification apparatus, and a ready state can be known from the notification device irrespective of the on/off state of the display unit.